

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00747 010615Z

20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/057 W

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R 010440Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 735

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PP

SUBJ: BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL GOVT DISPUTE

REF: PORT MORESBY 723

1. AUGUST 1 PRESS IN ARTICLE HEADLINED "BOUGAINVILLE GOVT MAY BE AXED" REPORTS THAT CHIEF MINISTER GAVE THE BPG UNTIL AUGUST 4 TO PUT FORTH "REASONABLE PROPOSALS" DESIGNED TO END THE STALEMATE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVTS.

2. THE PRESS EMPHASIZES THAT THE ACT OF JULY 1974 WHICH ESTABLISHED THE INTERIM BPG COULD BE REPEALED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, BUT SOMARE'S STATEMENT DID NOT MAKE THE THREAT EXPLICIT.

3. BPG SPOKESMAN LEO HANNETT REPORTEDLY STATED "WE ARE DETERMINED NOW TO ESTABLISH OUR OWN FORM OF REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT." THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVT., ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, WOULD WORK FOR SECESSION, FIX SECESSION TERMS, AND ESTABLISH BOUGAINVILLE AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION.

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PAGE 02 PORT M 00747 010615Z

4. AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY TOMORROW IS TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS TO COUNTER THE GPNG DEADLINE.

COMMENT: SOMARE HAS OUT MANEUVERED AND SOUNDLY ROUTED THE NATIONAL PRESSURE GROUP IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND BOUGAINVILLE REMAINS THE LAST REDOUBT INTACT. HANNETT, BY RESORTING TO THREATS OF ESTABLISHING A "REVOLUTIONARY" GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ENHANCED HIS CAUSE. WE SUSPECT THAT THE BPG ASSEMBLY WILL PROVE TO BE A MORE MODERATE FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES AND THAT WISER HEADS WILL PREVAIL UPON HANNETT TO COME TO TERMS. IT IS NOW THE GPNG'S TURN TO PROVIDE A FACE SAVING FORMULA FOR BPG. GPNG REP HAS JUST INFORMED US IT NOW LOOKING FOR SOME SUCH FORMULA TO GET HANNETT "OFF THE HOOK".
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